

[POINT-BASED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INTERACTING WITH ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE GRID]

Abstract of Disclosure

A method of interacting with Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data in a two-dimensional grid format, where one dimension (typically horizontal) represents time and the other dimension (typically vertical) represents program source or channel. User input comprises navigation commands to move the selection of an active program either up, down, left or right. Such commands may cause the new active program to be another program corresponding to a grid cell that is already displayed, or they may cause the new active program to be another program corresponding to a cell not currently displayed in the EPG grid, which in turn causes the times or channels displayed in the grid to change. The invention provides a novel visual indication of an active point in time which forms the basis of a method and system for selecting different active programs during grid navigation. The present invention further provides a method and system for user interaction with EPG grids which are applicable to any program data regardless of widely varying program durations and start times, which are easily understood by the user, and which provide efficient navigation regardless of program durations.

Figures